

177. The method of claim 176, wherein said information delivery environment comprises delivery of continuous media data to a plurality of viewers from an information management system; and wherein said I/O resources comprise I/O capacity and buffer memory space of said information management system.

178. The method of claim 177, wherein said information management system comprises a storage system, said storage system including said I/O resources and having at least one storage device or at least one partitioned group of storage devices.

179. The method of claim 178, wherein said method further comprises measuring a first value of at least one of said system I/O performance characteristics.

180. The method of claim 179, wherein said first value of at least one of said system I/O performance characteristics is measured by performing a storage device performance validation for said at least one storage device or at least one partitioned group of storage devices.

181. The method of claim 180, wherein said method further comprises measuring a second value of said at least one of said system I/O performance characteristics by performing a second storage device performance validation for said at least one storage device or at least one partitioned group of storage devices; and determining a value of one or more of said system I/O performance characteristics using said first and second measured values of said at least one of said system I/O performance characteristics.

182. The method of claim 181, wherein said said at least one storage device or at least one partitioned group of storage devices comprises at least one storage disk drive or at least one

partitioned group of storage disk drives; wherein said first and second measured values of said at least one of said system I/O performance characteristics comprises first and second measured values of total service time for said at least one storage device or at least one partitioned group of storage devices; and wherein said determined value of one or more of said system I/O performance characteristics using said first and second measured values of said at least one of said system I/O performance characteristics comprises a value of average access time, a value of transfer rate, or a combination thereof.

183. The method of claim 178, wherein said information management system comprises a content delivery system coupled to a network; and wherein said information delivery environment comprises delivery of continuous media data across said network from said content delivery system to said plurality of viewers.

184. The method of claim 183, wherein said content delivery system comprises an endpoint content delivery system coupled to said network at an endpoint of said network.

185. The method of claim 178, wherein said storage system comprises at least two storage devices or two partitioned groups of storage devices; and wherein said one or more monitored system I/O performance characteristics comprise one or more system I/O performance characteristics at least partially reflective of workload distribution across said at least two storage devices or said at least two partitioned groups of storage devices.

186. The method of claim 185, wherein said one or more monitored system I/O performance characteristics comprise at least one of maximal aggregate consumption rate for each of said at least two storage devices or partitioned groups of storage devices, maximal aggregate number of viewers for each of said at least two storage devices or partitioned groups of storage devices, or a combination thereof.

187. The method of claim 186, wherein said method further comprises managing one or more of said I/O resources for delivery of said continuous media data to said plurality of viewers based at least in part on said modeled utilization.

188. The method of claim 187, wherein an actual value of workload Skew for at least one of said storage devices or at least one of said partitioned groups of storage devices is greater than or equal to about 2.

189. The method of claim 188, wherein said managing comprises balancing said I/O capacity with said buffer memory space to ensure uninterrupted delivery of said continuous media data to said plurality of viewers from said at least two storage devices or said at least two partitioned groups of storage devices.

190. The method of claim 189, wherein said managing comprises setting a cycle time of said two or more storage devices or partitioned groups of storage devices to be greater than or equal to the maximal aggregate service time of said two or more storage devices or partitioned groups of storage devices.

191. The method of claim 190, wherein said managing further comprises setting a cycle time of said two or more storage devices or partitioned groups of storage devices to maximize the number of simultaneous viewers of said continuous media data that is supported by said information management system.